

Jack, George and Danny were playing golf together, you might think World War III had broken out. Its amazing to me they all survived. On the golf course they were fierce competitors, but off they had each other's love and admiration. One year at Mt. Pleasant, Jack and Briana entered the father-daughter golf tournament and came in first. Jack thought he had another natural golfer in the Emerson family.

Briana breaking with Emerson tradition decided to take up dance instead of golf and Jack supported her in that endeavor.

He was devoted to his family, his mom Betty and his dad John Sr., he loved his brothers; Charlie, Packy and Danny (Dennis) and his sister Ellen. He loved all his nieces, nephews and cousins. If they needed a helping hand, Jack was there and they were there for Jack.

I mentioned how he loved children, well Briana, Joe Maher and I had the great honor of being with your father in the hospital when you were born, all you had to do was look at his face and you could see his excitement and energy. When the nurse came in and said "Mr. Emerson, you're a daddy" Jack jumped out of his chair and ran down the hall to see his beautiful baby daughter. Briana, you are the light of his life, he loved you so much. He would talk about your dance recitals and especially the last one he saw you perform. He was really not up to par that night, but he knew he wanted to see you dance again.

You have grown up to be a beautiful young lady with the compassion and love that was part of your father. You now carry the banner for dad. And as you grow up and have children of your own, I know the legacy he has left will be carried forward.

One evening Peggy's brother, Connie Stone, brought his friend home, by the name of John Emerson. Connie introduced his sister to John and it started a relationship that lasted 40 years. Peggy, what can I say, your devotion to Jack was unquestionable; you have been Jack's backbone. At times it was very difficult for you, through all his ups and downs with his health, but I know Jack loved you and adored you; you were his wife, his friend and his nurse. I often told Jack that he married a saint. He would retort, "Barry, what are you talking about." I would tell him "who else would put up with you but a saint." He would say "you know, you're right." Peggy, you have a beautiful daughter who you have nurtured into a wonderful young woman and I know you will look forward to the day that you tell your grandchildren all about their grandfather the selectman.

You cannot put down in words what Jack Emerson has meant to this community, his family, his friends and the people he has helped along the way. Jack Emerson leaves a legacy that few people can claim. He started a project that few people thought would succeed, and because of his tenacity, it has succeeded. And along the way his success was recognized at the local and national levels.

He was awarded the collection systems by the New England Environmental Association in 1994. In 1995 the national organization, Water Environmental Association presented him with the national award in New Orleans. He was voted man of the year for his accomplishments by the Chelmsford Chapter of the Elks. In 2000 he was voted into the Chelmsford Hall of Fame. On October thirtieth of this year, at an emotional ceremony, Jack had just been released from the hospital the day before; he was recognized by his fellow Democrats and received the Greater Lowell Area Distinguished Democrat award. His legacy lives on in his wife, daughter, friends and the people of Chelmsford.

If they gave out awards for Mr. Chelmsford it would be to Jack. If they had a hall of

fame for good people, Jack would be your first choice. If they gave out a friend of the year award, Jack's name would be on the plaque. And if they gave out awards for devoted husband and father, Jack would be the first in line.

Well my friend, you have come to the end of a long hard fought journey. You put up the good fight as always. It's time for us to say so long, but not goodbye. You will be able to rest knowing that what you started will be carried on. We, your community will watch over Peggy and Briana, as I am sure you will be watching over us. Say hello to your mom, dad, brother Charlie, and all your friends who are with you. I know if God needs a waste water system, you'll be the guy to start the project. So Mr. Chairman, you will be deeply missed by all who knew you. I love you. So long old friend.

Peggy has asked me to read a prayer that Jack liked. It was read at his dear friend Ira Park's mass:

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when
life is done
I'd like to leave an echo Whispering softly
down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and
bright sunny days
I'd like the tears of those who Grieve, to dry
before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave When life is
done.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY DICKEY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for medical research and health care innovation in this country, Dr. Nancy Dickey, president of the Texas A&M University Health Science Center. The principled work of Dr. Dickey is testament to excellence in medicine and scientific research that will undoubtedly save countless lives.

While the pursuit of excellence characterizes the mission of the students and faculty of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, it is their passionate commitment to the care of their fellow human beings that defines them and forges their vision for the future. There is no question that the architect of that vision is Dr. Nancy Dickey.

As a graduate of Texas A&M, it is my privilege to honor the work of Dr. Nancy Dickey and I personally want to thank her for the shining example to us all and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to enter into the RECORD a speech by Dr. Dickey that serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of vital medical research in this country and the groundbreaking work of the Texas A&M University Health Science Center.

TEXAS A&M INAUGURAL CONVOCATION SPEECH BY
PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR DR. NANCY W.
DICKEY

Today we are making history.

We are assembled at this convocation not only to celebrate our accomplishments and honor our outstanding faculty, but also to affirm the honorable principles that guide us toward our vision of excellence in medicine and the healthcare professions. Let this day forever be remembered as the day that the Texas A&M Health Science Center branded

upon the world's canvas our promise to change the lives of people around the globe with the most outstanding health education, compassionate care and superior science as we confidently fulfill the obligations of our sacred oaths.

Let no one doubt that our faculty is composed of men and women who are devoted healthcare professionals, educators and researchers of extraordinary competence and integrity. We believe that every human life is precious and that this great institution and its members are obligated and committed to providing everyone with the best care and leadership possible. Our care for the body is strengthened by our faith in the intrinsic worth of every human soul. Therefore, our current practices provide important and lifegiving care to individuals, insight and direction to communities, and research that provides the hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

Those of us who have dedicated our lives to the health professions, indeed our vocations, believe that we are making a difference. We all benefit from an understanding of the past, the experiences of the present and the intellectual curiosity that discovers and invents those things that will enrich and strengthen our future. We believe firmly in our mission, and we are convinced that our faculty, staff and students are transcending all expectations as they make the world a better place in which to work and live. Our efforts have just begun, and the fruits of our labor shall have no end.

What then are the guiding principles of our organization that lead us to distinction in education programs, prominence in scientific research, and innovation? And, what are the guiding principles that make our care of those who suffer illness more compassionate, comprehensive and successful?

We pursue excellence in all we do. We are committed to providing the best care imaginable for all Texans. We have a special calling and duty to serve with sincerity and compassion the rural and under-served populations in the great State of Texas. When one person in our state is without needed care, we all suffer. If we know anything from quantum physics, it is that everything in the universe is connected in one way or another. Therefore, we intend to see to it that our connections are cared for with expertise and excellence.

We are convinced that the myriad of multi-form fibers composing the human body make it stronger, just as the diverse population of our state make our mosaic stronger, better and more beautiful. We take pride in the cultural diversity found in Texas and we are privileged to serve with tenderness and understanding all people, regardless of race, religion, cultural heritage or gender. We do not limit our inquiries or services based upon preconceived ideas or outdated conceptions of who is and who is not worthy. Every person is worthy, and we are eternally invested in the solemn American promise of serving everyone fairly, equally and honorably.

We will never compromise our integrity or our academic freedom. We are steadfast in our enduring commitment to honor and decency in all we do. And, our good reputation is best assured by transparency and accountability in our every transaction and relationship. Our academic freedom fosters the necessary environment to promote lively discourse and scientific inquiry. We cherish the freedom to express informed viewpoints without fear, and we will never shrink from our duties and responsibilities to our colleagues and fellow citizens.

We trust in active collaboration and continued professional development. Our research, teaching and services are strengthened and enhanced by our relationships at

the personal and institutional levels. We take pride in our colleagues' work and we champion the growth and development of all those whose commitment to the health professions is intertwined with our enlightened vision and valorous mission.

Our principles of excellence, service to all, diversity, integrity, academic freedom, collaboration and lifelong learning form the foundation from which the high vision and important mission of Texas A&M's Health Science Center is to rise to even greater national importance. We are unshakable in our commitment to these principles because they define who we are.

And, let me speak for a moment about who we are. The Health Science Center has an outstanding faculty, including sixteen Regents' Professors and four Distinguished Professors. We have faculty who have received national and international awards and grants, faculty who represent the cutting edge in their areas of study, and faculty who serve on national boards and organizations, thereby influencing public policy in significant ways. And, we have, if I may say so in all modesty, the first woman President of The American Medical Association.

Our faculty does not have the advantages of organizations and institutions with long histories and traditions, but their genius, efforts and results demonstrate fully the wealth of talent and brains we possess and of which we are so very proud. In fact, I am humbled by the many gifts possessed by our faculty.

Our students are very special indeed. We graduate very bright healthcare professionals who are not only devoted to caring for their patients and communities, but who also see themselves as guardians of the public good. They embrace their destinies as leaders and gladly accept their important roles as citizens of a larger community.

We must never forget that professional, cultural and social competence go hand in hand. We teach our young people the values and behaviors that are consistent with their expectations and responsibilities in their professions. We seek and enroll students from all walks of life whose inherent compassion and desire to serve ensure that they will adopt the best, tryout the unusual, and leave our institution with mature confidence in their extraordinary abilities to meet the challenges and opportunities their professions present now and tomorrow. And, as a result of our commitment and our students' determination to be leaders, we are confidently and proudly producing tomorrow's leaders in the healthcare professions.

Texas A&M Health Science Center has adopted and published its vision, mission and principles, with the appropriate goals, objectives and strategies attached thereto in honor of this inaugural convocation. The Pathways to Excellence 2015 is our declaration of our belief in who we are and what we are to become. We take pride in its publication, we honor those who helped write it, and we are devoted to seeing it carried out.

In closing, let me state emphatically that I am merely one of many here today. I am humbled and inspired by your devotion, labor and dreams. Our future is joined, and we march forward individually and collectively toward a future that is based upon ethics and science with the care of others foremost in our hearts and minds.

In a world where business claims more and more of our professions, we must never forget that love and compassion must attend the care and service that we provide. Our doctors, scientists and educators must not live in sterile environments ignorant of the daily toils of those whom they serve. We are devoted to the precept that all people, regardless of geography, economic status or

cultural differences, deserve the benefits of compassionate care, superior science and exceptional education.

Our health care professionals must maintain and build upon their intellectual curiosity. The future belongs to those who are willing to be a part of the world, learn something new everyday, challenge the status quo, break down unethical barriers, demonstrate integrity at every juncture, and lead by supreme example.

Our faculty and students have a splendid destiny before them because they have the gifts and the will to forge a future in which they will make the world a better and more humane place. This is the future of which I dream, this is the future that is possible, and this is the future that you will bring about. This is our commitment to and our hope for the Texas A&M University's Health Science Center.

TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, Black History Month gives us an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the historical accomplishments of African Americans. This year's national theme—"Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civil Institutions"—reminds us that the strength of the African American community is rooted in its fraternal and civic organizations.

I have been privileged to have the opportunity to work with many of African American fraternal and social organizations that are active in my congressional district. They all do important work that makes a tangible difference to the quality of life in our community.

This year is the 100th anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight this fraternity's activities and initiatives in my district. Alpha Phi Alpha is dedicated to serving others and to inspiring and empowering people to achieve success in all aspects of their lives. One of its distinguishing achievements is the establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation Project, which will pay tribute to one of the most influential figures in American history who worked to lead our nation towards greater justice and unity. The group's deep commitment to community empowerment through its numerous programs supporting education—its scholarship and mentoring programs and its efforts to inspire and motivate black youth through its Career Fairs and Black Youth Achievement recognition programs—have made a difference to countless young people.

For many years, I have welcomed the opportunity to attend the Montgomery County Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast program. This event, the success of which is evident in the consistent growth in the number of attendees and the county-wide praise it receives, is a service to Montgomery County. This gathering provides an opportunity for our community to rededicate itself to achieving equality and justice for all.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's impressive list of members includes Justice Thurgood Marshall and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The im-

portant and productive work of Alpha Phi Alpha and other organizations began decades ago, yet there is still much work to be done. We must redouble our efforts to provide the African American community, and all of our communities, with the tools needed to ensure that each individual has the opportunity to achieve his or her full God-given potential. During Black History Month, we must recommit ourselves to supporting the ideals of Alpha Phi Alpha and other great institutions as we continue to strive for a better America."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 12 and 13. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 12 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 13.

NATIONAL DISABILITY DAY RECOGNITION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, recently we recognized National Disability Day. I'd like to share with my colleagues the many barriers to employment that people with disabilities face, such as transportation, environment, and stereotyping, though 11 years have passed since the landmark passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

People with disabilities continue to battle a 50 percent nationwide unemployment rate, and for those with severe disabilities, the rate is a shocking 70 percent. The key to changing this statistic is to focus on the ability of an individual, rather than the disability.

Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability is not a charity. It's a smart economic decision. When a person with a disability is employed, they are transformed from a welfare recipient to a tax payer, and that positive economic benefit ripples out to all tax-paying citizens.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program in particular has been a critical force in assisting people with disabilities and creating self-sufficient, independent productive members of society. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. The people employed on JWOD contracts acquire valuable job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide. Last year it generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, approximately 1,000 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

This is a program that truly makes a difference in the nation and in Georgia. I'm